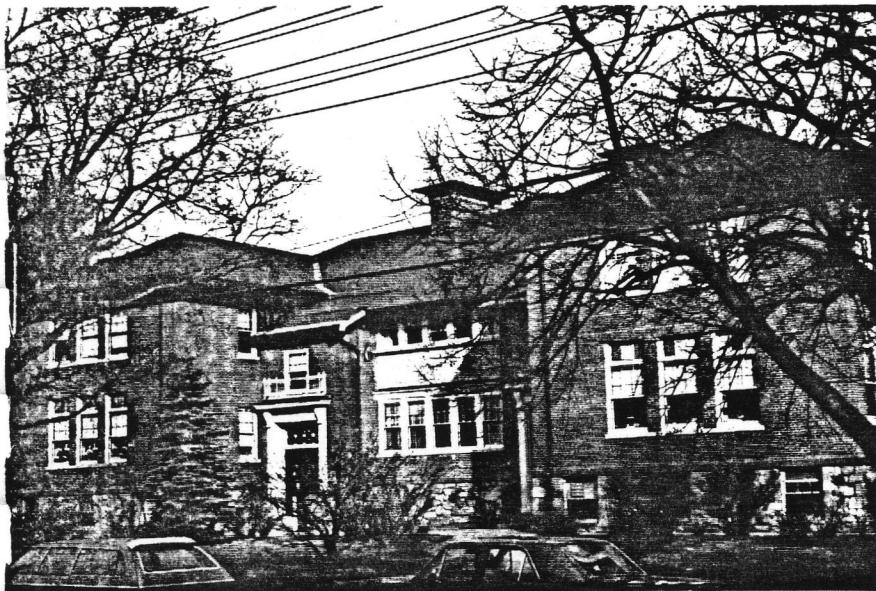


FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

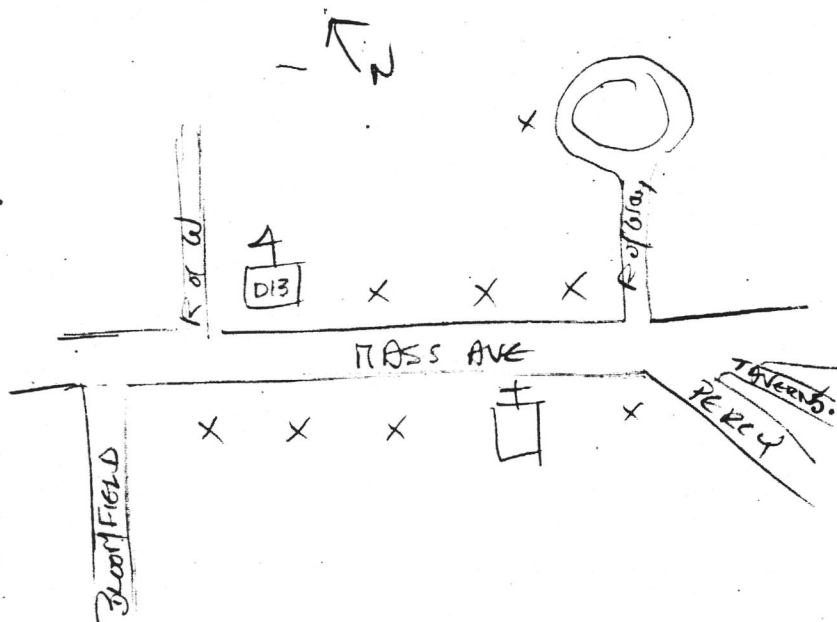
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In Area no.	Form no.
D	137

wn Lexington
 dress 1403 Mass. Ave.
 me Munroe School
 esent use Elementary school
 esent owner Town of Lexington
 escription:
 e 1904
 Source Town records
 le Craftsman

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Architect Willard D. Brown
 Exterior wall fabric brick (orig. shingle)
 Outbuildings (describe) _____
 Other features two doors, (4) + dart moulding
"georgian" brackets support door hoods;
basement level-fieldstone
 Altered yes, enlarged Date 1915
 Moved _____ Date _____
 Lot size:
 One acre or less _____ Over one acre x
 Approximate frontage 175'
 Approximate distance of building from street
50'

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

6. Recorded by Ruth Beebe
 Organization Lex. Hist. Com.
 Date 7/30/75

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Jr. High, 1923

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

This building was altered in 1915, according to plans by W.R. Greeley: brick wings were extended toward Massachusetts Avenue; brick fabric was installed over older wood shingles.

S. Lawrence Whipple, 1984

Original building- central block, shingled - rear central portion-still shingled.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Ed Worthen-Calendar History of Lexington - p. 105

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
LEXINGTON

Property Address
1403 MASS. AVENUE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

D

137

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

A description of the new (then un-named) school appeared in the *Lexington Minute-man* on July 16, 1904:

The new Lexington primary school building on Mass. avenue, nearly opposite Pelham road, displays quite an imposing structure from the perspective plans of the architect, Mr. Willard D. Brown. The structure is somewhat after the Italian Renaissance style – plain and dignified and of excellent proportions, rather than ornate. The windows are numerous and arranged to add to the pleasing effect of the façade and redeem the design from monotony or commonplaceness. The contractor, E.W. Pitman of Lawrence, promises to complete the structure by Oct. 1st. We should judge this to be an impossible feat of accomplishment, with less than three months to do it in.

There will be six class rooms, each well lighted. Beside the ordinary school room equipment, they will have wide shelves for plants and roomy book closets. There are two front entrances leading through covered porches into entrance vestibules, whence two staircases lead up and down. A transverse hall runs the entire width of the building. In this are placed the ventilated wardrobes, the footwarmers and drinking fountains. In front of this hall between the entrances is the teachers' room, and at the rear are large class rooms, each connected with the hall by two doors opening outward and also communicating with each other.

The second floor is planned like the first, except that in place of a teachers' room there is an emergency room and a supply room. In the basement are the boys' and girls' play rooms and the heating and ventilating plant, consisting of furnaces for the class rooms and an auxiliary steam boiler for heating the ventilating ducts, for furnishing direct heat to the corridors and coat rooms, and for heating auxiliary heating coils in the class rooms. There are separate coal pockets for the furnaces and boiler, each holding a season's supply of coal.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The new Lexington primary school opened in October 1904. The wooden structure was built at a cost of \$28,000. It was named the Munroe School in March 1905. In 1915 the town voted \$60,000 to enlarge the Munroe School and the front and side walls were faced with brick. Beginning in 1923 the building was used for a Junior High School.

The Munroe School was closed in 1979. A few years later it became the Munroe Center for the Arts.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hinkle, Alice and Andrea Cleghorn. *Life in Lexington: 1946-1995*.
Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*.
Kelley, Beverly Allison. *Lexington: A Century of Photographs*. Lexington Historical Society, 1980, p. 56.
Lexington Directories, various dates.
Lexington Minute-man, July 16, 1904.
Worthen, Edwin B. *A Calendar History of Lexington, Massachusetts*. Lexington: 1946.

Supplement prepared by:
Lisa Mausolf
June 2009

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
LEXINGTON

Property Address
1403 MASS. AVENUE

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Munroe School prior to 1915 alterations.

Source: Beverly Allison Kelley, *Lexington: A Century of Photographs*, 1980, p. 56.